21: Asai--3 [2] L-5 (1935-46) 1950 Formosan Aborigines
116, 226, 396, 476 Yami

"Among the Yami there is a fishing league. (The Yami live between Formosa and the Philippines on a very small island.) The Yami live on fishing—not much agriculture. They are very skillful in constructing boats. There are one-man, two-men, and the largest are 10-men boats. In the construction of 10-men boats, 10 members are necessary. They form a union. Sometimes it takes more than a year to build a 10-men boat. The men who have built the boat always fish in that boat and always together. The fish is divided among them. Such groups are voluntary rather than hereditary."

22: Wiedfeldt--15-16 F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 221, 226, 476, 527 Atayal

Since there are no implements for catching fish, fish are caught only once a year, in spite of the great wealth of fish in the mountain streams. This is a cooperatuve undertaking in which the whole tribe takes part. The chief of the tribe sets a day for the gathering of the chiefs of the clans, and also for catching fish in the large river. It is in the fall, when the trout has reached its full growth and the millet is ripe. Every clan sends at least one representative, and the women and children [16] also come. Every man brings along some poison which he has prepared himself from a species of bindweed. When it is dropped into the river, the fish are supposed to come to the surface immediately and even to hurry to shore, so that the participants in the celebration are able to catch them by splashing their hands in the water, amid laughter and joking. They are divided into as many piles as the number of clans represented, in which process the chief of the tribe sees that justice is observed. The same procedure is followed in dividing the clan allotments among the families participating. Since the fish are immediately roasted on the fire and consumed, this fish festival is a convenient way of feeding the people attending the meeting of the tribe.

22: Wiedfeldt--25 [6] F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 614, 476 Atayal

The clan is a family on a larger scale, amongst whose members there is complete solidarity. Like the family, its prime tasks are economic ones, although they are not so vital and are limited to those which constitute the obligation of the man of the family. It is an assembly of the men, and it undertakes those things which require more than the strength or the ability of the individual man. Thus, it takes care of protection against numerous enemies.

22: Wiedfeldt--26 [2] F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 224, 476, 614, 736 Atayal

In the hunts, the heads of the clans who take part act as directors and leaders for the members of their clans, for the dekane [MC: hunting association] has no head. If a family belonging to the clan is in distress because of wounds received in war, illness, or death, the neighbors help out, for the clan is a solid unit in aiding each of its members. Poverty or even begging is unknown.

22: Wiedfeldt--35 [3] F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 476, 463, 224 Atayal

Several women never work together. If several men work together, as for example in making bridges, fishing, or in war, there is no division of labor, but each one does the same thing as his neighbor. They have no ability to organize their occupations. If in hunting, 1/3 of them have guns and act as shooters, while 2/3 of them have old-style weapons and are busier as beaters and runners, without their knowing it the lack of guns has become an advantage.

22: Wiedfeldt--46-47 F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 464, 476, 592 Atayal

Measured by the standards of our present conditions, the Atayals lack the social relationship between employer and labor which has come into being by means of the labor contract, and by means of which the worker places his labor at the disposal of the employer in return for compensation. The Atayals know nothing about bringing outside labor in to help in their own households, nor do they understand the principle of mutual aid between neighbors... They only know how to manage with the labor supplied by the members of their own families and they increase the membership of the family if the need arises. The association of several clans for the purpose of hunting or fishing, and the [47] equal division of the booty among all can not be regarded as the beginning of the social institution of joint production, for there is no integration of labor. It may rather be regarded as a kind of economic union, and considered from this point of view, it would emphasize the difference between the poverty of Atayal life and the great number of economic organizations and unions that characterize our times.

22: Wiedfeldt--52 F-5 (1913) 1914 Formosan Aborigines
116, 476, 614, 619, 622 Atayal

Although a lack of supplies and transportation seriously cripples the power of the Atayals to act, to act, they have not yet been able to rise to performing any services for the body corporate. [MC: i. e. the tribe] They have only their own persons and their own strength to offer... It is different in the case of the clan. Here the members of the clan join in raising the fines and the purchase prices. One might see in this custom the germ of a tax system. If one were to examine the conditions more closely, one might also discover other basic principles of taxation, such as the consideration of the capacity of the individual to pay, or the imposition of a heavier quota on those who are particularly concerned. The head of a clan who keeps the fines that are paid in may also be regarded as a kind of treasurer. One may see how difficult it is to organize a large number of people to united and permanent activity from the fact that economic means can be levied for the clan, with its social and economic functions which are easy to see, but it is not possible to do this for the tribe even in an emergency. One can see how this difficulty increases with the size of the superior body.